Remarks/Arguments

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Goddard (U.S. Patent No. 6,684,240 B1), in view of Haraoka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,898,801 B1), hereinafter referred to as "Haraoka".

It is respectfully asserted that neither Goddard nor Haraoka, alone or in combination, disclose the step of:

> "detecting a user input indicating the acceptability of the rating sample having a first rating from a first source, said rating sample accessed from said rating sample database of said television signal receiver system,"

as described in claim 1.

Among the problems addressed by the present invention is the use of different rating systems, and the difficulty for users to compare or translate one rating system to another, since different rating systems use different ratings, different numbers of ratings, and different rating definitions. Moreover, the abstract rating definitions tend to be rather subjective. For example, one source may assign a given rating to a particular program, while another source may assign a different rating (i.e., higher or lower) to the same program. As a result, there is a risk that the rating limits selected by users may not achieve the desired effects. For example, programs that a parent would normally allow the household children to view may inadvertently be blocked, or programs that the parent would normally want to block may inadvertently be allowed. (Specification, page 3)

To address these problems, the present application describes a method for personalizing rating limits in a parental control system of a television signal receiver through presentation and assessment of user acceptance of rated samples that are stored within the television signal receiver system. In particular, the application describes a method comprising: accessing a rating sample from a rating sample database of the television signal receiver system; enabling reproduction of the rating sample; detecting a

user input indicating the acceptability of the rating sample; generating a first transition point based on the user input and the first rating; and using the first transition point to determine whether data associated with a rating from the first source is output or blocked.

The present invention does not depend upon broadcast television programs as the object of the user's evaluation. Instead, the present invention provides sample content in the rating sample database which may be used by the user to indicate acceptability. This is particularly advantageous in that preferences may be expressed in a single training session without requiring extensive viewing of actual television programs by the user.

Goddard teaches "a method of setting acceptable content rating parameters for filtering content in a ratings-enabled media wherein the acceptable content rating parameters delimit the threshold content ratings levels of content that may be accessed by an information appliance is provided. Employing the present method, a user may set the acceptable content rating parameters of a content control system by blocking or unblocking example content provided by the information appliance, in order to control future access to content similar to the example content. In this manner, specific knowledge of the content ratings scheme employed, or the meaning of specific content ratings used by such a scheme is not required." (Goddard Abstract)

While Goddard discloses that "a user may set acceptable content rating parameters based on the rating of example content by blocking or unblocking the example content," the "example content" of Goddard is television programs being currently received, as opposed to the rating samples from a rating sample database in the television signal receiver system as described in the present application. (See col. 2 lines 33-36) Goddard does not disclose the use of a rating sample database in the receiver system. Therefore, Goddard fails to disclose "detecting a user input indicating the acceptability of the rating sample having a first rating from a first source, said rating sample accessed from said rating sample database of said television signal receiver system," as described in claim 1. Furthermore, Goddard would fail to provide the significant advantage of the present invention of allowing a control system to be set up via pre-stored rating samples without the need to wait for desirable and undesirable content to be broadcast.

Haraoka teaches "in order to reduce the amount of data to be transmitted by a transmission apparatus, the transmission apparatus transmits control sub-information to a receiving apparatus separately from video data which is actually distributed, and eliminates redundant distribution of video data. The receiving apparatus stores the received video data and creates content in accordance with the control sub-information." (Haraoka Abstract)

Haraoka also fails to describe the storage of television rating samples in a database of a receiving system or the detection of user input regarding the acceptability of a sample accessed from that database. Therefore, Haraoka, like Goddard, fails to disclose "detecting a user input indicating the acceptability of the rating sample having a first rating from a first source, said rating sample accessed from said rating sample database of said television signal receiver system," as described in claim 1.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that there is no 35 USC 112 enabling disclosure provided by Goddard or Haraoka, that makes the present invention as claimed in currently amended claim 1 unpatentable. It is further submitted that currently amended independent claims 7 and 13 are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Since dependent claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18 are dependent from allowable independent claims, it is submitted that they too are allowable for at least the same reasons that their respective independent claims are allowable. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that this rejection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's representative at (609) 734-6804, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 13, 2009